



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Board Of Physical Therapy Examiners*

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**October 17, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by the Chairperson,  
Margery F. Rodgers, PT.

Call to Order

### **Board members present:**

Darren Burns, Esq., Consumer Member  
Paz Susan Cabanero-Johnson, PT  
Jill Kuramoto, PT  
Shirley Leeper, PTA  
Donald Novak, PT  
Lois Rosedom-Boyd, Consumer Member  
Stephen Ryan, PT

### **Also present:**

Ann E. Tyminski, Executive Director  
Joy E. Aaron, Administrative Officer  
Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel  
Patricia Miller, Board Secretary  
Ernest Bures, Investigator/Compliance Officer  
Patrick Rooney, Investigator  
Carroll Community College PTA Students  
John Miller, PTA, Baltimore City Community College Instructor

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board immediately entered into executive session to discuss disciplinary matters, came out at 2:40 p.m., took a short break and entered into open session at 3: 00 p.m.

Executive Session

Welcome was extended to the visiting students who were here to receive licensure instructions and application packets and to observe the workings of the Board. Ms. Rodgers conveyed how the Board recognizes visitors who may wish to speak. Mrs. Tyminski explained to them that all open session minutes are available on our website for public viewing.

Carroll/Baltimore  
City Comm.  
Colleges

The minutes of the meeting held on September 19 were approved with one change to page 3, paragraph 8 line 3.

Minutes

At the request of the Board, Dorothy Kutcherman, Licensing Administrator, made a brief appearance and was introduced to the visiting students. Because of her resignation, effective 10/24/06, the Board expressed appreciation for her many years of service, presented her with a gift, and wished her success in her new position.

Dorothy  
Kutcherman

Mrs. Tyminski apprised the Board of the circumstances of a PTA applicant for licensure by endorsement whose application disclosed a prior DUI conviction. After some discussion, the Board agreed to approve the application since this incident occurred several years ago when he was a student and there have been no further incidents.

PTA Applicant

There was discussion on the subject of a veterinarian's use of the term "physical therapist." The Board agreed to send correspondence to the doctor in question to educate him specifically on appropriate referral terminology for animal rehabilitation.

Veterinarians/  
Terminology

Mr. David Butler wrote to the Board regarding what he believes to be the illegal sale of CEU courses online. He believes the material is that which he authored some years ago and is being misrepresented and is outdated as well, posing a potential danger to the public in general. The response will explain to Mr. Butler that intellectual property is not the Board's purview.

David Butler/  
CEU course

The Board reviewed a response to the Institute for Natural Resources pertaining to the denial of CEU course applications. There were no objections and after a correction to the spelling of her name, Ms. Rodgers, Board Chair, the letter will be mailed.

Response to INR

Linda Horn, PT submitted two questions regarding the use of PTAs in an acute care hospital with inpatients and outpatients: 1) A PT evaluates a patient and puts modalities such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation in the written plan of care. The PT has not done these modalities with the patient but has completed the evaluation. Can the PTA do the modalities without the PT doing them first? **Answer: Yes.** 2) A PT has evaluated a patient at bedside and gets the patient sitting on the edge of the bed. The PT includes transfer training and gait training as part of the plan of care. Does the therapist need to do the transfer and walk the patient before the PTA begins these treatments, or can the PTA proceed with getting the patient out of bed and walking the patient for the first time since the PT has it in the written plan of care? **Answer: Yes. Both answers are predicated on whether the treatment is within the PTA's level of competence.**

Linda Horn, PT

Robin Newman, PTA submitted a question regarding whether PTAs can administer iontophoresis. **Answer: A licensed individual may perform iontophoresis provided he/she is competent to do so.**

Robin Newman,  
PTA

Nicholas Steedman, PT had the following questions. 1) Can an Aide "set up" a patient with moist hot packs or cold pack, for a PT? ...for a PTA? *Answer: Yes, to both PT and PTA, only while the PT is providing direct supervision.* 2) Can an Aide "set up" a patient by placing electrodes on the patient's body, for a PT? ...for a PTA? *Answer: Yes, to both PT and PTA, only while the PT is providing direct supervision.* 3) Can an Aide "set up" a patient by placing traction belts or traction harness on the patient, for a PT? ...for a PTA? *Answer: Yes, to both PT and PTA, only while the PT is providing direct supervision.* 4) Can an Aide assist a patient with equipment (i.e. unhooking/hooking the total gym, placing a bolster under the legs, helping strap on a cuff weight, remind patient of the next exercise, etc.), for a PTA, if this PTA has instructed the patient as to what they are to do (not a new exercise), but has had to step away for a minute or so? *Answer: No.* 5) Can an Aide remove a patient from a modality that has turned off by timer, for a PT? ...for a PTA? *Answer: Yes, to both PT and PTA, only while the PT is providing direct supervision.* 6) Can a PTA write a summary note to a doctor, including measurements, with suggestions for further action, continued treatment, discontinued treatment, &/or "per PT" recommendations? *Answer: No. This needs to be very clear. PTAs can write notes and do objective information. PTAs cannot change nor discontinue treatment plans. The PT must write summary notes to the physician.*

Nicholas Steedman, PT/  
Inquiry

The Board received a follow up to last month's inquiry from Erin Clough, PT regarding IEPs. The Board will respond that, because the IEP must be developed by the IEP team, she should consult with school counsel or request another IEP meeting if she is not satisfied with the PT treatment portion of the IEP.

Erin Clough/  
IEP

Roxanne Lee-McLaughlin, PTA is also inquiring about the school setting with regard to the IEP. She will be advised to request another IEP meeting to settle her concerns.

Roxanne Lee-McLaughlin/  
IEP

The Board received a question originally from Melissa Eldridge-Ashshakur, PTA, regarding PTAs and screening. A PTA may only follow a specific treatment plan that is written by the PT. They cannot assess a patient which is a component of screening.

Melissa Eldridge-Ashshakur/  
Inquiry

Lisa Allshouse, PTA writes that she is interested in obtaining a certificate in Ergonomic Evaluation. Her question(s) were unclear. She appears to need assurance that she can legally perform these evaluations. The Board will respond that she should clarify that she is not performing under the guise of a PTA. Anyone can be certified to perform ergonomic evaluations.

Lisa Allshouse/  
Ergonomic Evaluation

The Board voted not to approve a continuing education course application from Care 2 Learn.Com, for "Mandatories: Infection Control, HIV, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Harassment." The course is too standard. Another course entitled "Diabetesity," sponsored by Med 2000 was also disapproved. In order to evaluate the online course,

Continuing Education

"*Spanish for English Speakers*," the Board agreed to request the sponsors, At Home Seminars, allow a complimentary session for a Board member before making a final decision. Another course "*Aspergers Syndrome*," sponsored by MEDS PDN, was disapproved.

Catherine L. French, PT wrote to the Board regarding a continuing education course she feels should be approved. Her information will be sent to the Continuing Education Committee.

Catherine French/CEU course

The Legislative Committee was requested to meet to rewrite the regulations on continuing education.

Legislative Committee

The Board discussed plans for the upcoming Board sponsored continuing education course. The course will be free as well as on a first come, first served basis. Ms. Christine Larson, currently Director of Standards of Practice for the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, was approved as speaker.

Board Sponsored Continuing Education

Ms. Bethman gave an update on the South Carolina ruling on POPTS. A recent Supreme Court ruling has been confirmed and prohibits physicians from referring patients to a PT facility when they have a financial interest in that facility.

Reports/ Informational

Mrs. Tyminski and Ms. Bethman reported on the FARB meeting held on October 6-8<sup>th</sup> in Seattle, Washington. There was discussion on some of the speakers and issues.

Mrs. Leeper submitted a reported on the APTA of Maryland Board of Directors meeting held September 28<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on some of the issues, specifically an Athletic Trainer bill for the 2007 legislative session.

Chiro News (Maryland) was distributed.


Having held the Executive Session earlier, the open session adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Adjournment



Ann Tyminski, Executive Director

12.5.06  
Date approved

  
Margo Rodgers, PT, Chairperson